



rovers

a guide to becoming a rover

be prepared



name: _____

precimble

This handbook was written in parallel with the implementation of SCOUTS South Africa's (SSA) Organisational Rules (O.R.) 2017 and the subsequent revisions. At the same time, the Policies of SSA were also being prepared, revised, published, and implemented. Should there be any discrepancies between this Handbook and the SSA Constitution and O.R., the Constitution and O.R. take precedence.

If you notice any discrepancies or errors please send the details to rovers@scouts.org.za.

Acknowledgement and thanks must be given to all the Rovers throughout the country as without their contributions and feedback this book would never have been completed.

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First Edition January 2021

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why would you become a rover?

If any of these activities interest you, then Rovers is for you:

Abseiling, archery, aerobics, acting, astronomy, bush dancing, bushwalking, book writing, ball sports, B-P Award, bands, bed pushing, basketball, baseball, bowling, ballooning, beach, bridge abseiling, bush care, bushwalking, boating, camping, canyoning, caving, canoeing, canoe building, climbing, cards, chaos, cooking, commando courses, cycling, computer games, car rallies, diving, draining, dancing, discos, den renovating, darts, downhill skiing, eating, exercise, first aid, fishing, fund raising, face painting, film making, four wheel driving, fancy dress, friendships, fencing, flying, football, geo-caching, globetrotting, gliding, golf, Gang Show, gumboot throwing, gold panning, go-karting, hang gliding, horse riding, harbour cruising, hiking, iron gut competitions, igloo building, ice skating, igloo building, Indabas, indoor sports, JOTA (Jamboree-on-the-Air), Joey leading, juggling, jazz bands, jelly wrestling, judo, jamborees, karate, kayaking, knitting, knotting, kite making/flying, leadership training, liloing, life guard, massaging, music, motor bikes, mountain biking, mountaineering, Moots, Mudbash, mud wrestling, National Park touring, night activities, netball, orienteering, Oktoberfest, ornithology, peddling, planting, partying, photography, public speaking, public relations, parasailing, parascending, promoting, progressive dinners, poker, pool, performing, picnics, parachuting, quizzes, quoits, Rovering, running, racing, rock climbing, riflery, Roventure, rafting, rollerblading, sailing, soccer, surfing, skiing, Surf Moot, singing, snorkelling, showing off, skeet shooting, sky diving, snooker, swimming, squash, scuba diving, service, Scout leading, speleology, tennis, travelling, target shooting, tug-of-war, talking, tree climbing, twister, trekking, tramping, trapeze acts, 21sts, trivia nights, underwater polo, urban speleology, volleyball, water skiing, weddings, white water rafting, wide games, whale watching, water slides, World Moots, x-country skiing, Xmas parties, yoga, yachting, yum cha, zoo visiting.

So, are you convinced yet? Read on...

a few things you should know

What is a Rover?

ROVER: n. ~ a male or female homo sapiens between the age of 18 and 30, dedicated to fun and adventure while serving the community in the Scouting way.

What is a Rover Crew?

A group of Rovers of course! Rovers are people who meet regularly and participate in a wide range of challenging and interesting activities, such as rock climbing, Whitewater kayaking, car touring, and hiking, whilst learning new skills and making many friends. You can become a Rover when you turn 18 and you can stay in Rovers for up to twelve years. When you turn 30 your Rovering career comes to an end. Your Crew could be as small as 5 or as large as 20 Rovers. All Crews are different and not all Crews may suit your needs. You are not obliged to join your local Crew. If there are other Crews nearby, look around before you decide which Crew is best for you.

Organisation of a Rover Crew

Rover Crews are self-governing. Each Crew elects a team of office bearers to handle its management and day-to-day operation. After undertaking the necessary leadership training, one day you could be elected as the Crew Chairperson, giving you responsibility for the Crew, and furthering your leadership skills.

Traditional or Non-Traditional: What is the difference?

Just like a Cub Pack's structure is based upon the Jungle Book, a Traditional Rover Crew is centred around the stories of the Knights of the Round Table. This theme is used in the training of Rovers to take their place in the Crew and in society. Although this idea may seem dated, the majority of Crews choose to run this way. There are two stages of investiture in Traditional Crews - when you first join you become a Squire, which is a training period before you can become a fully invested Rover, sometimes referred to as a Rover Knight. Once you become a fully invested Rover you are truly a member of the Crew and become more involved in its running.

If you join a non-traditional Crew, you will not use the Knighthood theme. There are still two stages of investiture, as both a Squire and Rover. The only difference is the knighthood theme is not carried out in the running of the Crew.

Brief History of Rovering

Officially, Baden-Powell introduced what he called Senior Scouts in Britain in early 1918. The name of the section was changed to Rover Scouts later in that same year. From there, Rovering spread rapidly. The first large gathering of South African Rovers, known as a Rover Moot, took place in Cape Town in 1988.

Rovers changed dramatically in the 1980's when the section became increasingly self-governing and admitted females. South African Rovers later took a leading role in South Africa's participation in World Moots, when the first contingent attending the 15th World Scout Moot in Iceland in 2017.

Today there are several hundred Rovers across all Regions in South Africa.

Regional and National Rover Advisory Councils

A Region Rover Advisory Council (abbreviated to RAC) is where representatives from every Crew in that Region attend a meeting to exchange ideas, promote events, plan training and public relations activities, and make recommendations to the National Rover Advisory Council. The RAC also ensures good communication by maintaining a directory of all Crews in the Region and is responsible for encouraging the development of new Crews.

The National Rover Advisory Council (NRAC) functions in a similar way to the Regional Rover Advisory Council but is obviously at a National level. The ability for the NRAC to meet regularly is clearly difficult. Its role is to review and plan the development of Rovering in South Africa as a whole, as well as to interact with other sections of Scouting and the community.

Service

The other sections of the Movement have "*Be Prepared*" as their motto. Rovers, however, have their own motto, which is simply "*Service*". Your Rover Crew will endeavour to undertake a range of service projects while you are a Rover. These will include both service to the Movement and service to the wider community.

As a Rover, you may choose to help with a Cub Pack or perhaps you will build a bridge at the local Scout Camp. Possible community service activities that your Crew might undertake include giving blood, meals on wheels, planting trees, taking disabled people out for a day, bush regeneration, running camps and events for disadvantaged or sick children, or cleaning local monuments.

As a Rover, you will develop a natural talent to find ways of making some of the initially most uninteresting activities fun and rewarding. Don't worry, Service is certainly not a chore. It is a reminder that as a Rover you are part of Scouting and a member of something more than just an outdoors club.

special events

Moots

When Rover Crews get together for a weekend of crazy and unusual activities, it is called a Moot. You can meet many other Rovers from all around the country and the world. There are many varieties of Moot, ranging from National to World Moots. National Moots are often organised around a theme and last for a weekend run by a host Region. World Moots are run similarly to Jamborees and last for about 10 days in a different country each time.

Indabas

The National Rover Indaba is held every two years and is a conference that usually runs over three days and incorporates Region reports, discussions, workshops, youth forum and networking activities. The Indaba is an excellent opportunity for RAC Chairs, RTC Rovers and Regional Rover Representatives to meet other Rovers from other Regions and share their knowledge and ideas on Rovering with each other. The Indaba is also the platform to encourage and develop youth lead Scouting, as Rovers are the future leaders of Scouting.

It is also an opportunity for Regions to put forward motions, plans and ideas to the council to be voted upon so that the Chair: National Rover Programme can take these resolutions to the EXCO meeting.

award scheme

Link Badge

As usual when you are ready to progress to the next section in Scouting, there is a Link badge. This is designed to help you meet the Rovers in your prospective Crew, and to show you just what Rovers get up to. This is actually a Scout badge, so if you wish to gain this it must be completed before you leave Scouts. You'll find the requirements listed in the Scout Trail.

B-P Award

This is the highest award that Rovers choose to undertake and is the highest youth award in Scouting. It is an individual challenge, where you set your own goals, but have them approved by the Crew before you start. Rovers are challenged to reach the highest standard of which they are personally capable in four development areas, namely Personal, Movement, Community and Leadership.

Rover Trail

View the entire Rover advancement programme on www.scouts.org.za/rovers. This will take you through the different stages a Rover would progress through advancement at a very high level.

Path to BP Award

A more detailed resource that provides guidance in how to progress through the advancement programme. These ideas are starting points for Rovers to understand how to complete the requirements.

joining rovers

Finding a Crew

Rover Crews can vary greatly and not all Crews may be right for you. If your nearest Scout Group does not have a Crew associated with it, there is still likely to be another Group or locality Crew nearby. To assist you in finding a Crew, please view Crews in my area on the SCOUTS South Africa website, it will give a brief introduction and point of contact for each Crew. As Rover Crews have active and varied programmes, it is suggested that you contact the Crew to find out what they are up to rather than turning up at the location and times mentioned to find that they are not there. For more details contact the Regional Office or contact your RTC: Rovers for advice on the nearest Crew.

Lone Rovers

If you are in a remote part of South Africa, or there is no Crew in your local area, or perhaps you are a shift worker or in the defence forces, you can become a member of the Lone Rover Crew. By being a Lone, you remain a member of

SCOUTS South Africa, and can correspond with other Lone Rovers and organise joint activities, as well as take part in major Rover activities. Please contact your RTC: Rovers on this option.

Moving for University?

If you are moving away from your Region to attend University, you will find there are Rover Crews in most major centres, through the Region you would be studying. While you may have a “home” Crew we strongly advise you join a Crew in your new Region to keep progressing through the programme and being an active Rover. Please contact your RTC:Rovers on this option.

Worldwide Rovering

Rovers are not just a local affair - one of the best aspects of Rovering is meeting other Rovers from around South Africa and the world. Overseas you can find Rovers in New Zealand, across South East Asia, Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Canada, Switzerland, most Scandinavian countries, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, and Germany. Not all countries have Rovers, notably Britain and the USA. When you go travelling, it is possible to find Rover contacts just about anywhere.

Where do I get more information?

If you are interested to read some more about what the Rover section is all about and how it works, there are some handbooks available online under the resources tab at www.scouts.org.za/rovers